Parade 12/15/74

SHOPLIFTING IN WASHINGTON

One of ex-President Nixon's special assistants, earning $36,000 a year, was convicted of shoplifting two shirts. A security director shoplifted $26 worth of cosmetics for a girlfriend, then was fired from his $30,000 a year job. A housewife was convicted of shoplifting a $10 scarf.

The list of these incidents is seemingly endless. They are discussed in a shoplifting study financed by the Metropolitan Board of Trade in Washington, D.C.

The study shows that between August, 1973, and July, 1974, merchants in the nation's capital lost an estimated $345 million to shoplifters, an increase of 46 percent over the previous year.

The study revealed that 55 percent of the thievery is the work of middle-income people; 20 percent is the handiwork of upper-income people, and the primary offenders are teen-agers (45 percent) and housewives (25 percent).